

RAÚL M. GRIJALVA
7TH DISTRICT OF ARIZONA

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
RANKING MEMBER

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EARLY CHILDHOOD, ELEMENTARY, AND
SECONDARY EDUCATION

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE
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CHAIR EMERITUS

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Washington, DC 20515

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March 31, 2023

Representative Kay Granger
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Representative Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting funding for the Agua Fria Trail Phase 2 Pedestrian Bridge in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Avondale, located at 11465 W. Civic Center Dr., Avondale, AZ 85323. The funding would be used for the construction of a pedestrian bridge This pedestrian bridge that will provide bicycle and pedestrian connectivity between two separated multi-use paths located on the south and north sides of the drainage channel immediately north of Interstate-10.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because this is a high priority project for the City of Avondale. As part of the City of Avondale's 5-Year Capital Improvement Program, Phase II of the Agua Fria Trail project is listed to be completed. Connectivity of the City of Avondale pathway systems are extremely important to the citizens of the region. Expectations are high from pedestrians, cyclists, and the local governments who view safety as a top priority.

At the present time, use of city arterial roadway network streets is the only method to access Friendship Park via bicycle or as a pedestrian from any direction. High traffic volume streets such as McDowell Road, Dysart Road, and Avondale Boulevard present a required heightened level of awareness by the individuals. People who rely on the ability to visit parks and recreational facilities by means other than motorized vehicle methods come to expect a pathway network to service this need.

In addition, based on a Project Assessment report The City of Avondale has determined that a grade-separated structure is the preferred method to cross the I-10 drainage channel and would be accomplished by this proposed bridge that will be compliant with the current adaptation of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), City of Avondale General Engineering Requirements Manual, and American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO).

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 23 USC 133(b) (Surface Transportation Block Grant Program), specifically 23 USC 133(b)(7) – Pedestrian and Bicycle Projects.

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Raúl M. Grijalva". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'R' at the beginning.

Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress